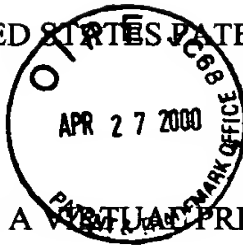


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Poisson et al.
Serial No. : 09/285,550
Filed : April 2, 1999
Title : MONITORING A VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

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In the Specification:

Page 1, line 4, before the "Background", please insert the following:

Reference to Related Applications

This application relates to the following United States Patent Applications: U.S. Ser. No. 09/285,133, entitled "Bulk Configuring a Virtual Private Network", filed 04/02/1999; U.S. Ser. No. 09/285,558, entitled "Links for Configuring a Virtual Private Network", filed 04/02/1999; and U.S. Ser. No. 09/285,424, entitled "Managing a Virtual Private Network", filed 04/02/1999.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

April 25, 2000
Date of Deposit

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